

# STAFFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Supra Ultraque"*



2019  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I join with all members of the Stafford Township Police Department in welcoming you to read our 2019 Annual Report. The dedicated officers and civilian support staff take great pride in providing you with the highest level of services possible. I encourage you to take the time to review this report so you can fully appreciate the quality of services we provide.

The report highlights some of the many achievements within three key initiatives of community engagement, traffic safety, and crime prevention. It also summarizes crime and traffic statistics. I hope this report will inform you about how we are working to keep our community safe and enhance the high quality of life we enjoy as residents of Stafford Township.

We invite you to join us through our Citizens and Youth Police Academies, Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, Cops and Kids, and other community events. We continue to expand our social media outreach and we are eager to accept your invitations to visit at town halls or other meetings held in the community.

The Stafford Township Police Department is comprised of talented and creative officers, dispatchers, and civilian personnel. I am proud to lead the team, but recognize that it is their collective efforts that make Stafford Township a great place to live and work.

The success of our agency depends greatly on police-community partnerships and we take great pride in the relationships we have established with citizens, civic associations, school and youth-based groups, and various community organizations throughout Stafford Township. We are committed to continuing to work with the community to hear your concerns, build a more diverse workforce, continue to train our officers to de-escalate situations, and ensure accountability and transparency.

Stafford Township is fortunate to have many active, caring neighbors and community leaders who have worked hard with us to develop effective partnerships. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mayor Greg Myhre and the members of the Council, Administrator Matthew von der Hayden, community members, other township departments, the Stafford Township Police Foundation, and all of the support staff and officers who work hard each day to help complete the department's mission. I invite you to visit our website at <http://www.staffordpolice.org> to learn more about the services available to you. I hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities we offer to communicate and collaborate with us.

*Thomas J. Dellane*  
*Chief of Police*



# STAFFORD TOWNSHIP COMMAND STAFF



*Chief Thomas J. Dellane*



*Captain Herman O. Pharo*



*Captain James Vaughn*



*Lieutenant Jeffrey Ross*



*Lieutenant Allen Halliday*



# MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

## MISSION

It is the mission of the Stafford Township Police Department, a local law enforcement agency in southern Ocean County, to protect and serve the public, residents, and visitors alike. In addition to providing general police protection, the Stafford Township Police Department is committed to excellence, respect for persons, and service.

## VISION

Using the mission statement, character, and values as our guide, the Stafford Township Police Department will employ our collective technical, economic, and human resources to be the most progressive and effective police department in the State of New Jersey. Our focus will include the expansion and integration of appropriate services designed to meet the needs of a changing society. In addition, we will develop and collaborate in new and integrated services designed to meet the special needs of the community.

## VALUES

- ◆ **Excellence** – We remain committed to measuring and achieving the highest possible levels of performance from ourselves and our organization while adhering to our motto SUPRA ULTRAQUE “above and beyond”.
- ◆ **Respect for Persons** – We treat each individual with respect and dignity and every effort is made to uphold and protect the individual and the public’s rights and freedoms.
- ◆ **Service** – We strive to provide personalized and caring services to the public each and every day.
- ◆ **Efficiency** – We commit our limited resources prudently in order so that we can continue to make investments in our people, police headquarters, equipment, and future growth.
- ◆ **Teamwork** – As a family of dedicated sworn police officers and civilian employees, we work together to foster teamwork, creativity, individual growth and expertise.
- ◆ **Integrity** – We keep and protect confidential information as part of our commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

# PROMOTIONS & NEW HIRES



Captain James Vaughn (center), next to Chief Thomas Dellane (left), and Mayor Gregory Myhre (right), after his promotion from Lieutenant to Captain on July 16, 2019.



Officer Zach Wiatrowski (right), next to Chief Thomas Dellane, after being promoted from Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer to Full-Time Patrolman.



Ptl. Gerardo Jorge,  
Class II Special



Dispatcher Thomas Scherzer



Dispatcher Laura Minaya

## RETIREMENTS



With over 25 years of honorable service, on June 28th, 2019, we celebrated the retirements of School Resource Officer Ronald Brummer (pictured on left) and Community Policing Officer Christopher Fritz (pictured on right).

# STAFFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 SERVICE AWARDS

## Police Officer of the Year

Awarded to an officer who demonstrates a quality work ethic, high degree of professionalism, motivation, dedication, and integrity, thus enhancing the police image and who distinguishes themselves within the law enforcement community.



*Patrolman Russell Griffin*



*Patrolman Chris Smith*

## Rick Drappi Award

Presented to a police officer who has shown unselfish dedication, pride, and concern for others. The award is named in honor of Patrolman Henry (Rick) Drappi who lost his life in a motor vehicle accident in 1978.

## Life Saving Award

Presented to sworn and/or non-sworn individuals for performing an act, through prompt and decisive action, under extraordinary circumstances, that saves or significantly prolongs the life of another.



*Patrolman John Morrin*

## Police Excellence Award

Presented to employees who demonstrate valuable police service or accomplishment demonstrating special initiative, faithfulness, perseverance, skill, or capability.

*MPO Keith Oler*

*MPO John Morrin*

## Medal of Good Conduct

Presented to employees that have unblemished police service. These medals are awarded incrementally for consecutive five-year periods without a serious disciplinary infraction.

Officer	Years of Unblemished Service
Sgt. David Johnson	25 Years
Crossing Guard Barbara Furman	20 Years
Dispatcher James McNally	15 Years
Det. Phil Mauro	15 Years
MPO John Morrin	15 Years
Police Clerk Elena Raimondi	5 Years

### Firearms Awards

#### 1st Place

Capt. Herman Pharo

Det. Drew Smith

MPO Michael Morrin

#### 2nd Place

Lt. Jeffrey Ross

Sgt. Kenneth Schiattarella

MPO Daniel Samaritano

MPO Ed Kunder

#### 3rd Place

Sgt. Jason Costello

MPO Joseph Stanziano

### PT Awards

#### 1st Place

Ptl. Giovanni Demarco

#### 2nd Place

Ptl. Anthony Vincent

#### 3rd Place

Ptl. Michael Wade



# PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division encompasses the majority of the sworn personnel employed by the Stafford Township Police Department. These officers are the first responders to all emergencies and calls for service. Additionally, they conduct initial investigations into all criminal activity, provide patrol services that address quality of life issues, handle traffic related activities including selective enforcement, and security checks of commercial and residential properties. The Patrol Division uses vehicle stops proactively, conducting numerous vehicle contacts for motorist safety, suspicious circumstances, and traffic violations. These stops lead to warnings, citations, arrests, seizures of illegal drugs, recovery of stolen property, interruption of crimes, and apprehension of wanted individuals. Every traffic stop increases the Patrol Division's visibility and serves to deter aggressive driving and criminal activity. When the citizens of Stafford Township require assistance, the Patrol Division is focused on service with compassion, integrity, and professionalism.

The Patrol Division is headed by a Captain who oversees all Patrol Officers, the Traffic Unit, and the K-9 Unit.

## Patrol Highlights

**March 2019** - Officers responded to the Buy Rite, Ocean Acres, in reference to a report of two males attempting to sell back empty kegs. In prior months, thefts of empty kegs had been an issue in town and surrounding areas. Awareness of this issue gave reason to believe that these two individuals may be the subjects who were committing these thefts. On-scene investigation led to the arrest of the two subjects, the impoundment of their vehicle, which would be seized by this agency, and also the recovery of six additional empty kegs hidden under a blanket in the back of the subjects' vehicle.



# PATROL DIVISION

## Patrol Highlights (continued)

**April 2019** - Officers responded to a 911 emergency call of an elderly woman choking on food. Upon arrival, officers observed the victim's lips turning blue while the family was performing CPR. Officers took command of the situation and began life saving measures, performing the Heimlich Maneuver. Medics arrived on scene and took over treatment, with officers still assisting. The object was eventually removed by the Medics. The victim began breathing on her own and was transported to the hospital.

**June 2019** - Stafford Police received a call from a mother regarding her autistic 17 year old son. She stated he was off his medication, was extremely distraught and grabbed a large knife from the kitchen, leaving the house on foot with the knife. Officers were immediately dispatched to the area and intercepted the young man walking down the street with a large knife in hand. Traffic was shut down temporarily while officers dealt with the young man. The incident unfolded rapidly, in view of a school bus, children at a bus stop and other vehicles in the immediate area. The subject was visibly distraught, shouting for officers to shoot him. The subject charged in the direction of an officer while waiving the knife above his head. The officer gave stern verbal commands, restraining himself from neutralizing his immediate threat, opting to take a stronger tactical position. For several minutes, officers gave verbal commands to the subject to drop the knife. The subject put the knife to his throat with both hands in a gesture of harming himself. Officers pleaded with the subject to drop the knife and, with ongoing de-escalation techniques, officers were able to have him comply. Officers moved in, gained control of the subject, secured the knife, and defused the situation within twelve minutes of the initial call.

**June 2019** – Officers responded to a call in reference to a suicidal, intoxicated male with a knife. When officers arrived at the home and made entry, the subject opened a bathroom door and immediately shut the door after shouting at the officers. Officers immediately ran toward the door and forced entry. The subject was located inside, unarmed. He was escorted out of the residence and taken to SOMC for treatment. The officers acted swiftly with concern for the suicidal subject and each other's safety. This situation could have easily escalated into a barricaded subject scenario, using countless resources and a lengthy standoff. Rather than let it get to that level, the officers involved used a combination of training, experience and good judgment to quickly resolve it, getting the subject the help he needed.



# PATROL DIVISION

## Patrol Highlights (continued)

**August 2019** – Officers were dispatched to the area of The Boatyard Causeway Marina in reference to a 23 year old male who was unresponsive on a pontoon boat after diving head first into shallow bay water. Upon arrival, officers transferred him from the boat to the dock, checked for a pulse and began rescue breathing while CPR was performed. The young man remained unconscious and was subsequently flown via medi-vac to a trauma center where he underwent emergency surgery for a life-threatening neck injury.

**November 2019** – Officers responded to assist a neighboring police agency that was dealing with an officer involved shooting incident. After a short vehicle pursuit, the vehicle crashed and the suspect, who was a front passenger, exited the vehicle and began shooting at the officer. The suspect then fled on foot. Stafford Police initially responded to the scene to assist with the ongoing search of the armed and dangerous suspect. A Stafford officer was able to obtain security video footage of the wanted suspect from a nearby business. Ocean County SWAT was subsequently called to the scene to manage the scene.

**November 2019** – Officers attempted a late evening motor vehicle stop on a BMW, bearing a New York registration, traveling at a very high rate of speed over the Causeway Bridge with its headlights off. The vehicle failed to stop for officers. Due to the reckless and unsafe actions of the driver, a police pursuit ensued. The use of a tire deflation device was considered, but the vehicle entered the GSP southbound. The NJSP was notified. The pursuit continued, ending off of Exit 52, where three occupants exited the vehicle. A foot pursuit by officers ensued. NJSP were requested for assistance. Both Aviation and K-9 units were deployed. Two of the three suspects were captured and the vehicle was impounded. CDS, stolen checks and credit cards, and over \$4,700 in cash was recovered. The subjects were charged with multiple criminal offenses.

## Patrol Statistics

PATROL	2019
Calls for service	31,686
Motor Vehicle Stops	13,699
Motor Vehicle Summonses	3,772
Warnings	11,015
Arrests	655
DWI Arrests	82

# K-9 UNIT

The Stafford Township Police Department K-9 Unit consists of two dual purpose K-9 Teams trained for patrol work and narcotics detection.

- ◆ Patrolman Christopher Smith and K-9 Ollie, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois
- ◆ Patrolman Donald Haines and K-9 Raven, a 5-year-old Dutch Shepherd

Our K-9 teams are primarily responsible for assisting the patrol unit with narcotics detection, tracking suspects who have committed criminal acts, and locating missing persons. The K-9 teams actively train with and support the Ocean County Regional Swat Team with tracking, building searches, perimeter control, and executing search warrants.



*DARE Day Demonstration 2019*

## Training & Awards

Patrolman Haines and K-9 Raven completed a United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) approved patrol certification course.

K-9 Ollie and Raven participated and finished as “Top Dogs” in a USPCA mini trial hosted at the Tinton Falls K-9 Training Center.

K-9 teams participated in the United States Police Canine Association Region 15 field trial, held in Ewing Township New Jersey. Patrolman Christopher Smith and K-9 Ollie finished in the top five and Patrolman Haines and K-9 Raven finished in the top fifteen.

## Notable Finds

Patrolman Haines conducted a motor vehicle stop for a motor vehicle infraction. During the investigation Patrolman Haines deployed K-9 Raven to do an exterior search of the vehicle. K-9 Raven gave a positive indication of the presence of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and the driver was subsequently found to be in possession of Methamphetamine.

Patrolman Haines, while on a motor vehicle stop, deployed K-9 Raven to do an exterior search of the vehicle. K-9 Raven gave a positive indication of the presence of a Controlled Dangerous Substance at the back of the vehicle. The driver was found to be in possession of Marijuana that was hidden in the trunk of the vehicle.

# K-9

## Notable Finds (continued)

Patrolman Smith, while assisting a patrol unit with a traffic stop, deployed K-9 Ollie to do an interior search of the vehicle. K-9 Ollie gave a positive indication of the presence of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and the driver was found to be in possession of Marijuana and a glass-smoking device containing Marijuana.

Patrolman Smith deployed K-9 Ollie on a track for a suspect involved in a domestic violence incident. K-9 Ollie tracked the suspect over crushed vegetation and hard surfaces to a residential home. Further investigation revealed that the suspect was hiding inside of the residence. He was subsequently placed under arrest after surrendering to K-9 Ollie.

	<i>K-9 Ollie</i>	<i>K-9 Raven</i>
<b>K-9 Activity Reports</b>	8	8
<b>Used on Calls</b>	26	29

## Community Policing

In 2019, the K-9 units participated in numerous demonstrations including:

- ♦ *Youth Police Academy*
- ♦ *DARE*
- ♦ *National Night Out*
- ♦ *Stafford Township Board of Education*





# TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT



## Introduction

The following is a compilation of activities and services of the Traffic Safety Unit for the calendar year of 2019. This report will involve a detailed comparison regarding motor vehicle crashes and various factors for 2019 in comparison with the prior four years.

## Members

The Traffic Unit presently is assigned one primary officer and one backup officer. The primary officer manages the daily operation of the unit and is the primary investigator for collisions. The backup officer assists when necessary with most functions of the unit.

Master Police Officer Justin Pascale is assigned as the primary Traffic Safety Officer. He has been assigned the Traffic Safety Unit since 2006. He has extensive training in the field of crash investigation, work zone safety, and traffic engineering. He is also a member of the Ocean County Fatal Accident Support Team and has offered testimony in numerous civil depositions. Officer Pascale was recently awarded with the title of Traffic Safety Specialist based on his extensive experience and training.

## Motor Vehicle Collisions

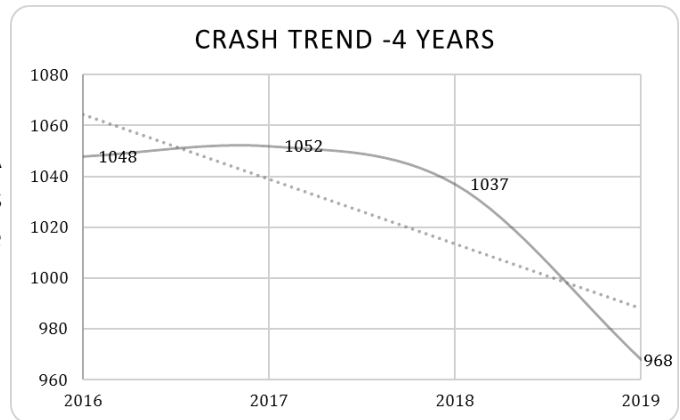
In the 2019 calendar year, the “reportable” collisions taken by this agency totaled 968 crashes. Out of the 968 collisions reported the breakdown of type is as follows:

Crash Type	Collisions
Non-Injury	768
Hit & Run	106
Fatal	1
Injury	93



## Motor Vehicle Collisions (continued)

Comparing the crash trend over the past several years is a standard measure when evaluating certain roadway factors or possible engineering changes. A look of the crash trend between 2016 – 2019 shows a decline and is most likely attributed to aggressive traffic enforcement, training, and participating in funded grant periods.



## Grant Participation

### Distracted Driving

This grant opportunity was the third time Ocean County has been able to participate as a funded County. The results are as follows from a period between April 1 – 21:

You Text, You Drive, You Pay	
Cell Phone Summonses	20
Other Summonses	257
Arrests	9
Total Stops	978

### Click it or Ticket Seat Belt Mobilization

May 21 – June 3

Click It or Ticket	
Seatbelt Summonses	8
Other Summonses	176
Arrests	3
Total Stops	536

### Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

12/7/2019—1/1/2020

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over	
DUI	7

\* The totals are for the entire agency, not just the funded hours as all statistics are used when submitted to the state

## Engineering

Throughout the year several firms, including but not limited to Ocean County Engineering and NJ DOT, request information from the Traffic Unit in determining roadway changes or speed reductions. The Traffic Unit assists with data information, crash statistics, and speed surveys in requested areas.

## Planning Board

Communication between the Traffic Unit and the Planning Board is consistently maintained. The purpose is to review upcoming projects specific to traffic control and provide any input regarding traffic flow or safety.

## Citizen Requests

All traffic related complaints come through the Traffic Bureau and are reviewed and followed up on. A variety of items are utilized to address complaints by conducting traffic surveys, targeted enforcement details and the use of digital signboards equipped with radar and data gathering capabilities.

Over the course of 2019, numerous requests for speed reductions, surveys, sign requests and engineering changes are sent to the Traffic Bureau. In 2019 Officer Pascale received and addressed more than 250 requests from Stafford Township residents.

Serving as a child passenger safety technician, Stafford Police assisted with several Child Safety Events teaching parents and caregivers proper seat installation and best practices. Each event can range from 20 – 50 families contacted.

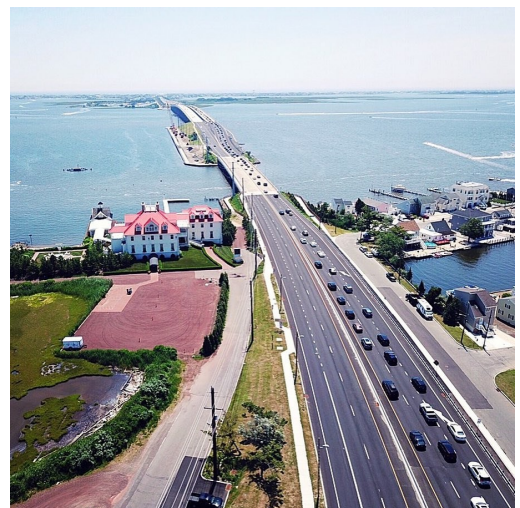
## Motorcycle Unit



The Traffic Safety Unit also supervises the Motorcycle Unit. Presently, there are five full-time members assigned to the unit, two of which were trained and certified in 2019. The responsibilities of the unit range from normal patrol, directed traffic enforcement, parades, escorts, funerals and community policing activities.

## Training and Future Development

The Traffic Safety Unit continues to utilize a Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV), that was purchased in 2018. The SUAV has been used for several types of missions including but not limited to aerial photography, searching for missing persons, over-watching SWAT operations, and mapping fatal collision scenes to secure officer safety and resume normal traffic patterns as quickly as possible.



*Aerial photo taken by SUAV*

# TRAINING UNIT

The Stafford Police Department recognizes the importance of training. The department strives to ensure both sworn and civilian police employees are provided with the knowledge and education to perform their service to the community in a professional and safe manner.

Training starts before a police officer is deployed to regular duties. All officers attend the New Jersey Police Training Commission's basic course, which is twenty-one weeks in length. During their time at the police academy, the recruit will receive instruction in various topics such as Constitutional Law, Ethics, State Law, Defensive Tactics, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Firearms, and Physical Fitness.

The next step in the training process after completion of the Academy is Field Training. The officer will learn the community, local ordinances, and appropriate departmental procedures. During the Field Training Program, the officer will work with veteran officers, referred to as Field Training Officers (FTOs). The field-training program lasts nine weeks.

The State of New Jersey requires all officers to complete training each year, in areas such as vehicle pursuit, use of force, and domestic violence. In addition, the State mandates weapon qualifications semi-annually. Furthermore, the 2019 New Jersey Attorney General (CLEAR) mandated training for each officer in the state, "Officer Response to Sexual Assaults", was satisfied by all of our agencies sworn officers, specifically, with an electronically recorded passing test score on each officers NJLEARN account.

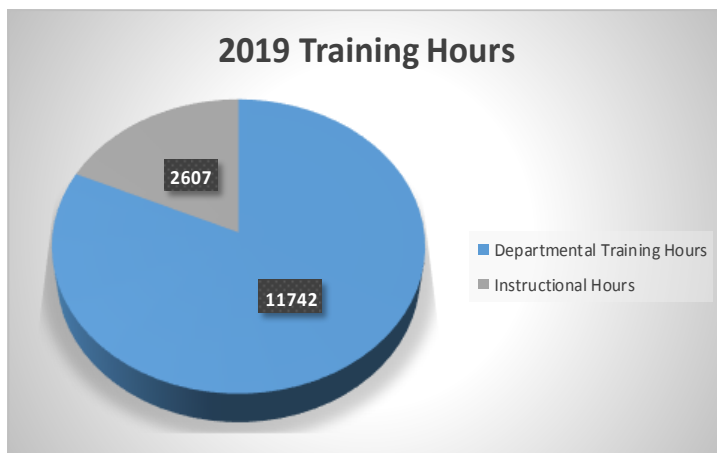
In 2019, the training bureau scheduled 14,349 hours of training for Stafford Police personnel. Each sworn full-time police officer, 53 in total, averaged 208 hours of training for the year.

In an attempt to provide the absolute best training to our officers, we develop instructors/experts in various law enforcement fields. In 2019, these instructors provided 2,607 hours of training to members of this agency as well as to the Ocean County Police Academy, other law enforcement agencies, and community partners. Our new instructors included the following: 2 - Firearms (Pistol / Rifle) instructors, 3 - #NOTEVENONCE (Opioid Education) instructors, 1 - Taser instructor, and 1 - Motorcycle instructor.

In September of 2019, a major renovation to the Stafford Township Police Department Training Room was started and became a priority to be the best state of the art training facility in Southern Ocean County and possibly the entire county. The new training room will be able to comfortably seat thirty-two attendees with the most up to date audio visual equipment and current technology. The training room will be

utilized to host agency trainings, be used as a satellite campus for universities, and allow our partnership third party training institutions to conduct their educational courses. The third party training institution extends complimentary trainings to the host site agency. The new training room will be ready for use on March 15, 2020.

Our agency's primary objective is to be one of the most prepared police department in the state, which should be clearly evident by our continued commitment to training.





# COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



## Introduction

The Stafford Township Police Communication Bureau is a twenty-four-hour dispatch center which answers emergency and non-emergency calls for service from the residents of Stafford Township. The center is staffed seven days a week with dedicated Public Safety Telecommunicators who are committed to meeting the needs of the community. Telecommunicators in the room operate telephonic and radio equipment in the receipt and transmission of calls for police, fire, and medical assistance as well as request for municipal services.

## Mission Statement

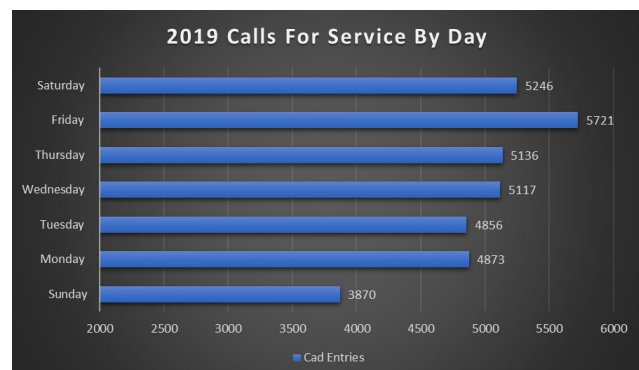
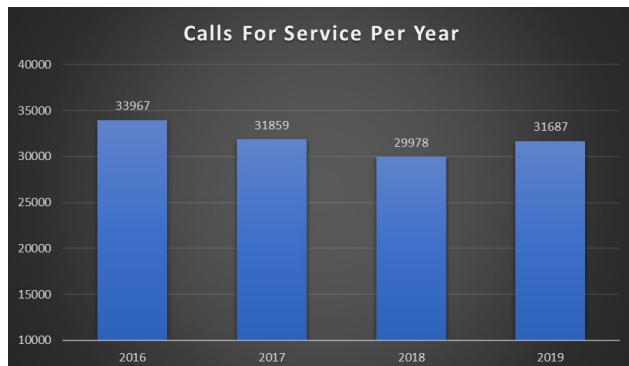
The mission of the Stafford Township Police Communication Bureau is to make an effective difference in the community by providing high-quality, professional and effective communications, and to ensure responder safety, while striving to save lives and protect property.

## Core Values

- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Consistency
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Respect/Trust
- ◆ Excellent Customer Service
- ◆ Professionalism
- ◆ Teamwork

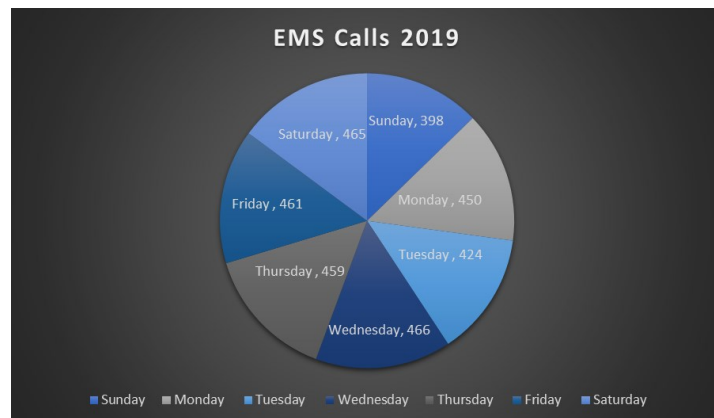
## Calls Received/Calls for Service

In 2019, the Stafford Township Communications Center received 31,687 calls for service.

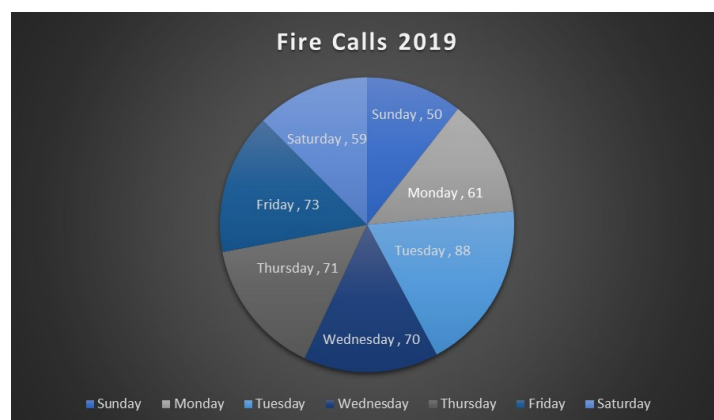


## Calls for Service (continued)

Medical Calls  
3,125



Fire Calls  
472



## Dispatch Activities

### Quality Assurance/ Quality Improvement Program

This year Stafford continued with our newly implemented QA/QI evaluations. This QA/QI program reviews dispatchers' call-taking and dispatching techniques and provides feedback to the employee, allowing them to evaluate their performance. This type of review process ensures that each dispatcher is working to their full potential and also recognizes dispatchers who go above and beyond the call of service.

### Community Outreach

Stafford Dispatch participated in the annual Student Government Day, an event in which a selected student is given the opportunity to be paired with a dispatcher for the day and learn how the Communication Bureau operates. Programs like this allow dispatch to branch out into the community and gives insight into who we are and what we do to help our residents.



## Medical Dispatching

In addition to being basic telecommunicators, Stafford Dispatchers are also certified Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMD). This EMD certification is an advanced level of training which allows our dispatchers to provide lifesaving medical instruction to callers over the phone. Stafford is proud to be one of the few PSAPS in Ocean County who provide this service. While most towns rely on the Ocean County Sheriff's Department Communication Center to do this for them, Stafford is able to perform this service within our center saving time and lives. Below is a review of some of the medical calls that our dispatchers handled in 2019. In all cases, our dispatchers provided timely medical instruction to assist patients and in several cases, saved lives.

Medical Call Type	Number of Calls
Bleeding/Lacerations	44
Cardiac Arrest	22
Chest Pain	83
Choking	6
Diabetic Emergency	17
Fall Victim	209
Pregnancy/Child Birth	3
Respiratory Emergency	151
Stroke	32
Traumatic Injury	14
Unconscious	95
Vehicle Related Injuries	143

## Training

Stafford Township Police Dispatchers participated in yearly mandated Telecommunicator education courses to remain compliant with the New Jersey State Office of Emergency Telecommunicator Services requirements. In addition to this mandatory training Stafford dispatchers attended a medical refresher course. Members from the local First Aid Squads led the instruction. Topics included anatomy and physiology, stroke, shock, cardiac arrest, and an overview of local EMS protocol. In an attempt to remain current and up-to-date with industry standards, the members of the Stafford Township Communication center also attended the yearly NJ NENA convention. NENA (National Emergency Number Association) is an organiza-



tion that is on the forefront of all emergency communications issues. The association serves its members and the greater public safety community, as the only professional organization solely focused on 9-1-1 policy, technology, operations, and education issues. With more than 13,000 members in 48 chapters across the United States and around the globe, NENA promotes the implementation and awareness of 9-1-1, as well as international three-digit emergency communications systems. Training plays a big part in our commitment to strive for excellence, and as we advance forward in our learning, we continue to listen to the needs of the community and adapt to the changes in our society.

# COMMUNITY POLICING

## Introduction

The Stafford Township Police Department Community Policing Unit consists of all Community Relations, Crime Prevention, School Safety, and Youth Programs. The goal of the Community Policing Unit is to proactively address the needs and concerns of Stafford residents, businesses, schools, religious organizations, and civic/homeowner's associations. Through planning, facilitation, and implementation of programs and initiatives that reach out to all of these facets of our community, we enable the ability to reduce crime and the fear of crime, as we work together in our shared goal of enhancing the quality of life in Stafford Township.



*After the retirement of Officer Fritz, newly appointed Community Policing Officer, MPO Lawrence attends the Home Depot Car Show*

## Community Policing Services

Our Community Policing Unit actively seeks out initiatives and programs, with the goal of remaining a leader in our field for providing outstanding services to our residents. The Community Policing programs offered to our residents in 2019 included: Blue HART, On POINT, Special Needs Registry, CodeRed Notification System, Neighbors by Ring, Project Medicine Drop, and the Internet Commerce Safe Zone.

Our Community Policing Unit also strives to maintain the highest level of involvement in our community, assisting with various community programs throughout the year such as large competitive endurance events (5ks, Triathlons, etc.), recreational sports leagues (youth sports), fundraising events, and community gatherings. In 2019, our Community Policing events and services included: the Youth Police Academy, National Night Out, Bike Patrol, Cops and Kids, DARE, Project Aware, #NotEvenOnce, presentations to schools grades K-12, various presentations to community groups, Coffee with a Cop, Station Tours, and more.



### **Blue HART (now recognized as BLUE HOPE)**

- A law enforcement initiative to save lives

The Blue Hart (Heroin, Addiction, Recovery, and Treatment) program is a cooperative Law Enforcement Initiative to assist individuals with a substance abuse disorder. This program works directly with municipal police departments and treatment providers to assist Ocean County residents into treatment. Any person who voluntarily requests help with their addiction will receive screening to participate in the program. In 2019, the program continued its success with processing numerous applicants into treatment facilities.

## **Community Policing Services (continued)**

**On POINT** <https://oceanmhs.org/p-o-n-t-program/>

The On P.O.I.N.T. (Proactive Outreach In Needs and Treatment) program is a partnership between the police department and Ocean Mental Health Services to provide on-site social workers in the police department two days per week. The program was developed to address the high volume of mental health, substance abuse, and social service related calls and incidents that utilize a considerable volume of police and emergency resources. Current research indicates that police officers respond to calls for service from the same individual or family on multiple occasions. Police officers restore peace, but they are not sufficiently trained to address the underlying cause of behavioral and mental health issues, therefore, are often forced to respond multiple times to the same address for crisis incidents. On P.O.I.N.T. is an innovative program that assists in providing early intervention to individuals who may otherwise engage in the criminal justice system, and/or become consumers of acute and emergency services. The police department has access to social workers from the On P.O.I.N.T program two days per week, with clinical oversight and supervision. The On P.O.I.N.T. program's impact reduces the use of acute and emergency services through the implementation of police-initiated social work intervention, in turn creating a new community culture of health and well-being.

In 2019, there were 77 referrals made by patrol officers to On POINT, a total of 338 since its inception on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Program Objectives include:

- ◆ Ongoing Collaboration, training, education as well as needed support for police
- ◆ Reduction in the use of acute and emergency services
- ◆ Reduction in psychiatric and emergency room screenings via police transport
- ◆ Reduction in recurring crises that repeatedly absorb police and emergency resources
- ◆ On-going development of early intervention, pre-arrest and jail diversion programs
- ◆ Engaging community members to achieve stability and wellness

### **Special Needs Registry**

The Stafford Township Special Needs Registry is a program for residents with special needs, modeled after Monmouth County's Special Needs Registry. The registry is voluntary and free of charge. It is available to any resident with a special need that emergency responders should be aware of, including but not limited to: wheelchair-bound elderly residents; young children with autism; military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); insulin dependent diabetics, or persons with severe allergies to bee stings.



The program is simple and easy to use. Once a resident completes the special needs questionnaire, the police department will flag the registrant's name and address in our Computer Aided Dispatch system. When a call is received from the address, police dispatchers will receive notification that a person with special needs may be present at the home. The dispatchers will then inform the officer of the special needs that may be present. Special Needs registrants are also provided with decals to affix to their homes and vehicles, if they so desire. The presence of a decal on a vehicle will alert the police officer to the possible presence of a special needs registrant in the vehicle or in the home upon arriving at a scene. The program is completely confidential, and residents can opt out at any time. The information provided to the Special Needs Registry is restricted to first responders with a need to be aware of the information.

## Community Policing Services (continued)

### CodeRED Resident Notification System



The CodeRed Resident Notification System is a platform that allows us to effectively notify residents about critical and time sensitive communications such as: Missing Children, Emergency Preparedness, Evacuation Notices, Wildfire Alerts, Public Health Crisis, and Criminal Activity. The system allows notifications to be made via phone calls, text messages, email, and social media with customizable notification settings to tailor to your individual needs. A resident can register with the system by texting the word STAFFORD to 99411.

### Neighbors by Ring

In 2019 Stafford Township launched the Stafford Neighborhood Portal through RING, to provide residents with real-time crime and safety alerts from neighbors and law enforcement. Through a joint subsidy program with RING, Stafford Township was able to provide residents with a substantial discount towards their Ring security devices, which ultimately led to getting hundreds of discounted and free cameras out into our community! While the subsidy program is no longer available, the program has been extremely successful in assisting our Detective Bureau with investigations, and continues to serve as a successful platform of communication for our residents. All residents are encouraged to stay up to date with what is happening in our neighborhood by downloading the Ring Neighbors App. Text staffordpd to 555888 or visit <https://downloading.com/stafford>



### Project Medicine Drop

The Stafford Township Police Department has joined state-wide efforts to halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs with the implementation of Project Medicine Drop. This program allows consumers to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days a week, 365 days a year by providing a secure prescription drug drop box located within the headquarters of Stafford Township Police Department. Throughout the year of 2019, Stafford Township additionally brought the program to numerous community events, including Southern Regional and Stafford School District

Back to School Nights, Walmart-Wellness Day, National Night Out, and the Home Depot Car Show. In 2019, Stafford Township collected nearly 1200 lbs of prescription drugs from local residents through Project Medicine Drop.

### Internet Commerce Safe Zone

Stafford Township continues to provide its residents with its Internet Safe Exchange Zone, for residents buying or selling items online. This service provides a secure, neutral location where citizens can complete internet sales transactions safely and in person. The Internet Safe Exchange Zone is located on the east side of the Stafford Municipal Complex, with two parking spaces clearly marked "Reserved Parking-Internet Commerce Safe Zone." Stafford Township highly encourages residents to utilize this area provided, which is well-lit and under 24-hour video surveillance.





## YOUTH PROGRAMS & HIGHLIGHTS

### Youth Police Academy

The Stafford Township Youth Police Academy is a week long program with the goal of providing incoming 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with firsthand knowledge of the duties and responsibilities that are required of a Stafford Township Police Officer. The curriculum of the program is focused on building the knowledge, discipline, and self-confidence of its participants, while also engaging the students in fun activities that will enhance the relationship between our communities' youth and police officers.



The 2019 Youth Police Academy was held during the week of July 9<sup>th</sup> - July 12<sup>th</sup>. This year was our largest class to date, with thirty-seven cadets in attendance from the Stafford Intermediate and Southern Regional Middle Schools. Topics of instruction included military drill, physical training, SWAT, K9, investigations, traffic, DWI enforcement, and RADAR. Cadets also had the opportunity to meet with members of the Stafford Township Emergency Medical Service, as well as visit the Stafford Township Fire Department and N.J.S.P. Marine Unit.

Our Youth Police Academy has shown to draw out the best of the best from our school districts, and continues to be a huge success for our local families and school administrators. A key to our success is the excellent working relationship we have with the Stafford Township Recreational Department, who assists with the preparation leading up to the week and during the event.



### National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships, as well as neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

National Night Out was held at the Manahawkin Lake Park on Tuesday August 6, 2019. Activities included live music, face painting, police demonstrations by K9 and SWAT, Stafford Police, Stafford Fire and Stafford EMS static vehicle displays, bounce houses, food trucks and vendors.

### Bike Patrol

In 2019, our Bike Unit provided extra patrols in our waterfront communities during the summer months, and were assigned to all large community gatherings and events, particularly Founder's Day, Fall Fest, Irish Festival, Maker's Fest, Bridgewalk, and Hooked On Fishing. The unit continued proactive educational programs including a one week Bike Safety & Fitness Camp in the summer of 2019 for children aged 9-16, and Bike Patrol Instruction for the Ocean County Police Academy Class I Satellite Course held in Beach Haven, NJ.



## Youth Programs & Highlights (continued)

### **Cops & Kids**

In a partnership with the Stafford Recreations' Municipal Alliance and the Walters Group, the Cops & Kids program continued to thrive in 2019. This program focuses on developing a mentorship with our youth through encouraging recreational outside activities with members of our police department. This year's program also included a pizza party and K9 demonstration for the kids, as well as the attendance of several local organizations to promote the various resources that are available to our community. The events were held on April 24, 2019 and September 27, 2019 at the Stafford Park Apartment Complex, with 25-50 children in attendance at each event.

### **DARE & School Programs**

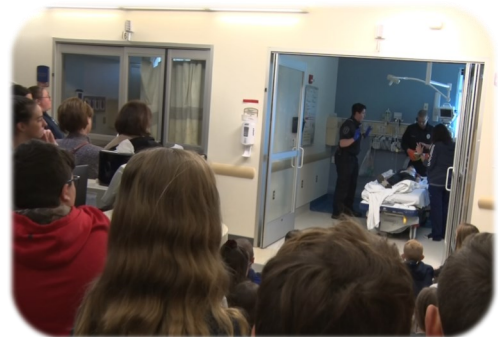
The Community Policing Unit is very proactive in all of our school districts, both public and private. The Stafford Township Police Department is proud to continue our partnership with DARE, which has been an international leader in Drug Prevention School Based Programs for over four decades. The bulk of our DARE instruction is made to Grade 5 (350 students) at Stafford Intermediate, where DARE is embedded in the school's master scheduling as a Special (like music, art, etc.) each marking period. We are present at Stafford Intermediate two to three days a week, from the first week of school to the last. We also bring DARE to the Saint Mary Academy (25 students). The ten-week block of instruction focuses on decision making, which is a recurring theme of each of the 10 lessons. The culmination of the DARE program is DARE Day, a celebration of the students' graduation from DARE and a day to consider positive role models in their lives, their schools, and their community.



In addition to DARE, the Community Policing Unit and Patrol Unit strive to have frequent and consistent positive interactions with our youth from an early age. Police officers from the Patrol Division visit each school daily, becoming familiar with the school districts and interacting with students during their lunch and recess hours. In 2019 the Community Policing Unit also participated in reading to children at the library and local preschools, as well as made presentations to grades K-12 on Halloween Safety, Bicycle Safety, Social Media & Internet Safety, Drug Prevention (Grades 7 & 8), DWI at SRHS and MATES, and Stranger Danger.

### **Project AWARE**

Project Aware, a New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) State recognized award winning drug prevention program, is a collaborative effort by many in the Stafford Community. This not only includes the school staff and students, but community organizations and businesses. The community involvement includes the Stafford Intermediate School, Southern Ocean Medical Center, Stafford Municipal Alliance, Stafford Township First Aid Squad, and the Stafford Township Police Department. During the program, the students portray a realistic story that can play out in today's world involving peer pressure, social media, drugs, alcohol, and death. Through role-play, a hospital field trip, and follow-up debriefing, the students experience the consequences of making bad choices and discover their power to make good choices.



## Project AWARE (continued)

Project Aware is presented in the spring to all sixth graders at Stafford Intermediate School and St. Mary Academy— approximately 400 students total. It is presented in small groups over several days. The script is reviewed and updated every year to remain current. When writing the script for the party scene, the staff and students discuss what would be relevant to them. Students are surveyed after the completion of Project Aware, and the results are used to adjust the program for the following year.

In recent years, R.N. Ken Rodenbaugh from the Emergency Department of the Southern Ocean Medical Center has made huge efforts in expanding Project AWARE statewide. From grants obtained with Hackensack-Meridian's support, "Train the Trainer" Project AWARE courses have enabled the participation of Police, EMS, Medical personnel and educators from Lacey, Barnegat, Berkeley, Little Egg Harbor and Toms River.



### #NotEvenOnce

The Stafford Township Police Department continued instructing #NotEvenOnce in 2019. This interactive course is a collaborative effort between law enforcement and educators with the goal of informing students about the dangers

of opiates before they leave for college or enter the work force. This program, which meets all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for health classes, is taught to students during their senior year of high school. The ultimate goal behind this program is to educate students about opioid abuse and give them the tools they need to make better decisions. #NotEvenOnce was instructed to all SRHS and MATES 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## School Resource Officer Program

Our SRO is responsible for the planning, facilitation, and Implementation of programs and initiatives that unite school administration, faculty, students, staff, parents, and community members. Our SROs' purpose is to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the school environment, investigate all crimes and police matters on school grounds, provide guidance, instruction, and response within and around the schools, and assisting school staff with maintaining a safe environment. Through long-term partnerships, we have successfully created a relationship with our school populations that is unrivaled by neighboring communities. Our SRO continues to work closely with school administrators during monthly security drills to ensure our school's staff, faculty, and students are prepared for emergency crises.



*After the retirement of Officer Brummer, newly appointed School Resource Officer Stanziano starts his first day at Southern Regional High School*

## Youth Programs & Highlights (continued)

### Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO)

In an effort to provide a safe and secure educational environment for NJ schools, the state passed a bill adding a new classification to the SLEO statute that designates a “Class III” SLEO exclusive for schools. Class III’s must be retired Law Enforcement Officers in good standing and must meet all requirements of a Police Officer. Upon the passing of this bill, the Stafford Township Police Department and the Southern Regional School District came to an agreement to deploy four Class III SLEOs on campus. Our four Class III’s for the 2019/2020 school year are comprised of two retired Stafford Township Police Officers, one Beach Haven Police Officer, and one Long Beach Township Police Officer. These officers provide a welcomed law enforcement presence in all Southern Regional schools. Their daily interaction with the Southern Regional community has been welcomed by both staff and students.



### NATIONAL COFFEE WITH A COP

No speeches. No agenda. Just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.



### Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop is a nation-wide initiative with the mission of breaking down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve. It is a way for Stafford Township residents to enjoy a cup of coffee with local officers, ask questions, discuss issues, and learn more about each other. In 2019, Stafford Township had two ‘Coffee with a Cop’ events held at Manhattan Bagel, on March 30<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Station Tours & Officer Visits

The Stafford Township Police Department welcomes guests into our police department as part of our community and educational outreach. Station tours are conducted for church groups, schools, social clubs, and other local organizations. Throughout 2019, the Community Policing Unit provided several tours for local youth organizations including preschools, Boy Scout Troops, and Girl Scout Troops. The groups were welcomed into the police department, and each given a personalized, age appropriate tour.





## Youth Programs & Highlights (continued)

### Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs

On June 2, 2019 the Stafford Township police Department and the Stafford Recreations' Municipal Alliance held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Derby at the Manahawkin Lake Park. This program is a state-wide youth drug-prevention event using angling skill development as a gateway to teach youth about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and how to deal with the challenges facing them in their youth lives. This year we were joined by the United States Coast Guard, and Marine Biologist, Jordan Henry, with a presentation about sharks. Kids and parents enjoyed a beautiful day with pizza and prizes from Tony's Bait and Tackle!



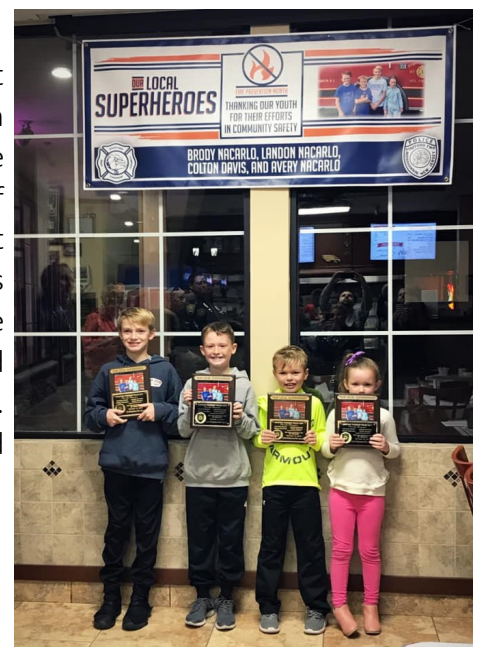
### Brody's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Truck Show

On September 8, 2019 Stafford Township Police had the pleasure of attending Brody's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Truck Show, a community wide event in support of a local 3 year old boy fighting Leukemia. This heartfelt event, hosted by David's Dream & Believe Foundation, brought hundreds of Brody's favorite vehicles together to the Southern Regional Parking Lot, filling it with police vehicles, firetrucks, ambulances, cement trucks, dump trucks, monster trucks. With our DARE Hummer on display, we were proudly awarded with a trophy for 'Brody's Favorite Truck.' The real prize however, was knowing we had a small part in putting a smile on Brody's face.



### Our Local Superheroes

On December 3, 2019 Stafford Township hosted a celebration at Fusaro's Pizza, to recognize the heroic bravery of four local children in Stafford Township. During the event, Stafford Township Police had the opportunity to recognize four children from the Ocean Acres section of town, for their swift and brave response during an emergent incident that occurred on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The children and their parents were greeted by Stafford Township Police, including Chief of Police Thomas Dellane, the Stafford Township Fire Department, Stafford Township Mayor Myhre and Stafford Township Council Members. They were treated to pizza and ice cream, leaving with a well-deserved plaque and a memory that will surely last a lifetime.



# RECORDS BUREAU

The records bureau maintains records of all incidents and arrests documented by the Stafford Township Police Department. The unit is comprised of dedicated civilian employees who consistently maintain a high level of service to our internal and external customers and produce a high-quality product.

## Responsibilities

- ♦ Processing police-related data requests
- ♦ Processing employee and volunteer background checks
- ♦ Processing all criminal and civil discovery requests
- ♦ Gather all relevant reports and data for Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests.
- ♦ Compiling monthly statistics
- ♦ Document and submit all Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

## Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

Calls for Service	2018	2019
Accidents - Traffic	1,195	1,140
Alarms	1,299	1,468
Criminal Mischief	113	133
Criminal Sexual Conduct	4	3
Disorderly Conduct	356	348
Drug Incidents	149	101
Domestic Violence	286	283
DWI	52	74
Escorts	339	250
Forgery	5	1
Fraud	122	188
Harassment	158	170
Liquor Laws	0	1
Medical Assistance	2,183	2,259
Fire Calls	446	472
Missing Persons	56	47
Municipal Ordinance	11	15
School Crossing	22	27
Shoplifting	82	82
Stolen Property	18	19
Suspicious Auto	417	485
Suspicious Persons	437	563
Traffic Stops	12,649	13,647
Trespassing	62	47
Warrant Arrests	326	273

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is official data on crime in the United States, published annually by the FBI.

The UCR indexes report incidents in two categories: violent crimes and property crimes. Aggravated Assault, Forcible Rape, Murder, and Robbery are classified as violent crimes. Arson, Burglary, Larceny/Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft are classified as property crimes.

Part 1 Crimes	2018	2019
Homicide	0	0
Rape	1	4
Robbery	2	1
Assault	64	61
Burglary	16	14
Larceny-Theft	166	137
MV Thefts	5	5
Arson	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>223</b>

\* The numbers for 2018 have been adjusted to accurately reflect their totals.



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## Internal Affairs

The Stafford Township Police Department Internal Affairs Bureau accepts, reviews, and responds to all complaints against police officers received from the public or from within the organization. Citizen complaints may be made in person, by telephone, fax, internet, or through the mail. These include anonymous complaints, complaints from third party witnesses, juveniles and complaints from parties not directly involved in the incident from which an allegation arises. All allegations are carried to their logical conclusion by experienced and trained investigators.

The investigative process assesses the propriety of all on or off duty conduct during the incident in which the alleged misconduct occurred. If during the course of an investigation there is an indication that misconduct occurred other than that alleged, the investigator examines the additional potential misconduct to its logical conclusion.

## Disciplinary Process

In any given year, officers of the Stafford Township Police Department are involved in thousands of citizen contacts. Many are routine and many involve critical situations. The internal Affairs Bureau is tasked with handling complaints from the public regarding officer conduct, as well as rare allegations of criminal conduct by department members.

During 2018, no criminal charges were filed against any officers of the Stafford Township Police Department.

## Allegations and Outcomes

All complaints are categorized based on the alleged offense. Upon the completion of the investigation, it is reviewed by the Chief of Police and is designated with one of the following dispositions:

Exonerated: The alleged incident did occur, but the actions of the officer were justified, legal and proper.

Sustained: The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation, and the actions of the officer violated a provision of the agency's rules and regulations or procedures.

Not sustained: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.

Unfounded: The alleged incident did not occur.

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

## Internal Affairs Allegations/Dispositions (2018)

	Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Administratively Closed	Total
Excessive Force	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Entry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Criminal	0	0	0	1	0	1
Differential Treatment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Demeanor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Rule Violation	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

## Internal Affairs Allegations/Dispositions (2019)

	Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Administratively Closed	Total
Excessive Force	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Entry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Criminal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Differential Treatment	0	0	0	2	0	2
Demeanor	0	0	0	2	0	2
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Rule Violation	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

# DETECTIVE BUREAU

## Introduction

The primary function of the Detective Bureau is to conduct follow-up investigations of reported crimes. These investigations may include interviews with suspects, victims, and witnesses, as well as collection and analysis of evidence.

In 2019, the Stafford Township Police Department's Detective Bureau was comprised of a Captain, a Lieutenant, a Detective Sergeant, three Investigative Detectives, three Drug Enforcement Detectives, and one Identification Detective. The Identification Detective handles crime scene forensics and evidence collection and retention.

## Responsibilities

The Investigative Detectives handle a variety of offenses requiring specialized training in order to develop expertise in areas such as Arson, Sex Crimes, Computer Crimes, Fraud, Homicide, Financial Crimes, Interview and Interrogation, Crimes against Persons, Crimes against Property, and Crimes against Animals.

During 2019, the Investigative Detectives were assigned 136 cases. Of the 136 cases, 134 cases were investigated. The clearance rate of cases for the general assignment detectives in 2019 was 71%. Cases that are considered cleared are cases that were solved, either with or without charges issued.

In addition to the aforementioned cases, the Detective Bureau also handles all of the Firearms Investigations. In 2019, the Firearms Unit processed 701 Firearms Identification Cards and Permits to Purchase as well as 2 permits to carry a firearm.

Furthermore, the Detective Bureau handles the Registration and Community Notification requirements for Offenders subject to Megan's Law. There are currently 24 Megan's Law offenders registered in our jurisdiction. In 2019, two offenders were charged with violations of Megan's Law.

## Investigative Highlights

**On January 29, 2019,** the Stafford Township Police Department Detective Bureau investigated a complaint of public lewdness in a residential area. On multiple occasions, the complainant stated that an adult male neighbor in his 60s had stood nude in the window exposing his genitals to her and her 12-year-old son. The victim stated that the male suspect would only conduct this behavior when she and her son were in view.

The Detective Bureau conducted surveillance of the location and observed the suspect exposing his genitals to the 12-year-old boy as well as several other adults caught the suspect. The suspect was placed under arrested and charged with 4<sup>th</sup> degree Lewdness and other related offenses.

**On March 16, 2019,** the Stafford Township Police Department Detective Bureau investigated a Bank Robbery at the Chase Bank located at the Wells Fargo Bank, 297 Route 72. During this incident, a male suspect entered the bank and handed the teller a note. His head and body were covered, and he was wearing glasses. A distinct vehicle was identified from surveillance footage and tracked to a similar bank robbery that occurred on March 9, 2019 at the M&T Bank in Barnegat Township. Through a multijurisdictional investigation, Detectives were able to identify a suspect and tracked him to New York City, where was placed under arrest. In October of 2019 the suspect pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in Federal Prison for Bank Robbery and other federal charges.

## **Investigative Highlights (continued)**

**On May 10, 2019,** the Stafford Township Police Department Detective Bureau initiated a warrant for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender and Failure to Report Change of Address as a Sex Offender. The offender fled the area and mailed several letters to the police department as well as the Stafford Township Court, taunting the police and giving notice that he was living somewhere in Southeast Asia and would never be caught.

US Customs was contacted, and authorized a flag on subject's passport. A few weeks later, the US Marshals advised that the subject had altered his passport and flew to Hong Kong and Cambodia. Contact was then made with the US State Department, who then contacted law enforcement officials in Cambodia. The subject was arrested by Cambodian officials and turned over to the US Marshals, who transported him back to the United States. The subject was lodged in the Ocean County Jail in lieu of the no bail warrant issued out of Stafford Township for Megan's Law Violations.

**On May 27, 2019,** the Stafford Township Police Department Detective Bureau responded to the Southern Ocean Medical Center in reference to a 14-year-old female reporting that she had been sexually assaulted by an unknown male subject in his 50s that she met online. Stafford Police Detectives along with Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutors Office, Evesham Police Department, and Burlington County Prosecutor's Office assumed the girl's presence online, and communicated with the suspect.

During the communication, the suspect requested to meet the girl for another sexual encounter, and was arrested by Stafford Detectives as he arrived to pick up the 14-year-old female. The suspect was charged with Sexual Assault, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Luring or Enticing a Child, and Attempted Sexual Assault. He was later lodged in the Burlington County Jail in lieu of a no bail warrant.

**On October 02, 2019,** the Stafford Township Police Department Detective Bureau along with the Ocean County Prosecutors Office Special Victim's Unit investigated a report of an aggravated sexual assault of an 8-year-old boy by an acquaintance of the boy's family. Further investigation led to the arrest of a 61 year old male who charged with 1<sup>st</sup> degree Aggravated Sexual Assault and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, at which time he was lodged in Ocean County Jail in Lieu of a no bail warrant.

**On October 14, 2019,** the Stafford Township Police Department Detective Bureau investigated multiple commercial burglaries that occurred to 5 local restaurants in Manahawkin. The investigation revealed that a male subject had forced entry to Mama Maria's Restaurant, located at 1116 South Main Street in West Creek, and removed an undisclosed amount of cash from the cash register and lock box. The male subject then fled on a black mountain bike. The incident was recorded on store surveillance, and footprints, as well as tire impressions were observed in the mud.

While investigating this incident, Stafford Dispatch advised that Andy's Pizzeria, located at 25 South Main Street, had also been burglarized in the same manner with an undisclosed amount of proceeds stolen. An inspection of the other businesses located within the same shopping center revealed that Asian Gourmet, Jersey Mikes, and The Cigar Shop had been burglarized in the same fashion. After a thorough follow up investigation, the 62-year-old male subject was identified and arrested in Toms River. The suspect was later linked to over 25 commercial burglaries within Ocean County and Monmouth County. The suspect was charged with 5 counts of Burglary, Criminal Mischief and Theft from Stafford Township as well as burglaries committed in multiple other jurisdictions. The suspect was lodged in Ocean County Jail in lieu of a no bail warrant.

# DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT

## Introduction

The Stafford Township Drug Enforcement Unit is comprised of experienced law enforcement professionals with narcotic expertise. The goal of the DEU is to be a proactive narcotic detection unit with the specific objective of investigating and arresting individuals for the acts of possession and or distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances in Stafford Township. The DEU is committed to reducing the flow of narcotics as well as arresting and successfully prosecuting violators using such methods as surveillance, concerned citizen complaints, anonymous tips, confidential informants and undercover operations.

The detectives have extensive specialized training and experience in all aspects of narcotic investigation. The duties of DEU investigators include advanced surveillances, investigative techniques, interview and interrogation of suspects, affidavit and search warrant preparation, as well as confidential informant development and usage.

## Responsibilities

The Stafford Township Drug Enforcement Unit responsibilities include:

- ◆ Narcotics related investigations.
- ◆ The detection, identification and arrest of person(s) involved in the use or sale of narcotics.
- ◆ Seizure and forfeiture of assets derived from illicit drug traffic.
- ◆ Develop and maintain an intelligence database of, but not limited to, narcotic information.
- ◆ Provide assistance to patrol on any investigative matters during the tour of duty beginning 1200 hours to 2200 hours.
- ◆ Confidential Informant development and maintenance.
- ◆ Affidavit and search warrant preparation and execution.
- ◆ Identification of gang members and their activity.

## General Information

It is our goal to eradicate narcotic activity in Stafford Township. Search and seizure case law is constantly changing. Today's narcotics detectives must have a working knowledge of new case law and be able to quickly adapt to changing scenarios.

The Stafford Township DEU will continue to be vigilant, effecting arrests, building cases and reducing the flow of drug traffic in our community.

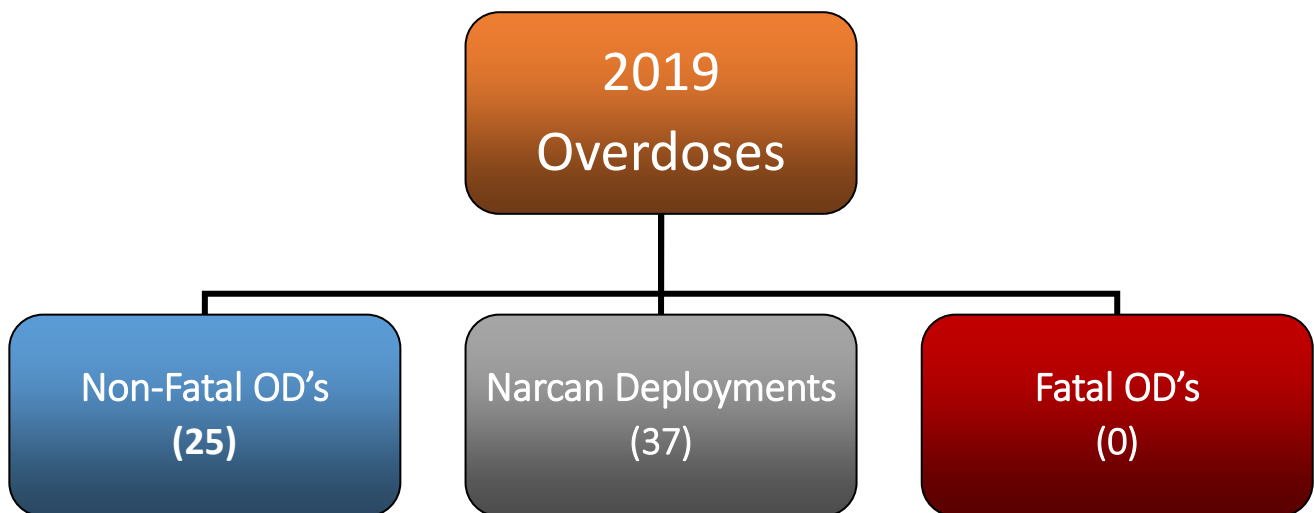
The DEU has built a productive working relationship with the Ocean County Prosecutors Office and has had their support on many investigations. We have also built strong ties in Little Egg Harbor Township and Barnegat Township along with several Atlantic County agencies. We know it will take a cooperative effort on the part of our surrounding towns and agencies in order to make a difference. The DEU will continue to reach out to other agencies for assistance and offer any help we can provide to them. We look forward to the work ahead in 2020.





In 2017, Stafford Twp. Police Dept. implemented the Blue Hart Program to combat the Heroin epidemic. The "Blue HART" program allows substance abusers to turn themselves and their product in at any of the three participating police headquarters, in order to go to addiction services providers for treatment evaluation without any threat of charges or jail.

In 2019 the Stafford Twp. Patrol Division responded to (6) Blue HART calls for service.



2019	Non-Fatal	Fatal
January	4	0
February	1	0
March	0	0
April	4	0
May	2	0
June	2	0
July	4	0
August	2	0
September	1	0
October	1	0
November	2	0
December	2	0

## **Case Development**

During the calendar year of 2019, the DEU developed several dozen cases. The cases were the result of anonymous tips, concerned citizen complaints, proactive surveillance, confidential informants, information gleaned from other cases as well as information from other police agencies. The patrol division of the Stafford Township Police Department is essential in providing information and suspects to the DEU. All the cases were investigated to their logical conclusion resulting in arrests, documentation of targets, and furthering the database for information, which can be used later. Where it was necessary, some cases were closed due to a lack of fruitful evidence or information to implicate certain targets.

## **Significant Cases**

During the calendar year of 2019, the DEU unit generated cases in Stafford Township resulting in 24 narcotic related arrests, with 64 narcotic charges. The arrests and charges range from possession of narcotics, possession with intent to distribute narcotics. From the cases generated the degree of the charges range anywhere from disorderly person's offenses to first-degree criminal charges.

### **Case #1**

On Friday February 22, 2019, after an ongoing investigation, DEU Detectives appeared before the Honorable Guy P. Ryan, JSC and received a Court authorized search warrant for a residence located on South Main Street, Manahawkin, N.J.

As a result of this investigation, Ahmed and Heather Bouie were charged with the following:

- ◆ Possession of Marijuana under 50 Grams.
- ◆ Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Both subjects were later released from the Stafford Township Police Department pending future court appearances.

### **Case #2**

On Friday February 25, 2019, after on ongoing investigation, DEU Detectives appeared before the Honorable Guy P. Ryan, JSC and received a Court authorized search warrant for a residence located on Indian Road Manahawkin, N.J.

On March 7, 2019, the Ocean County Swat Team executed the search warrant on the residence, at which time Mauro Naurez, was taken into custody.

As a result of this investigation, Mauro Naurez was charged with the following:

- ◆ Possession of Schedule I CDS.

Naurez was later released from the Stafford Township Police Department pending future court appearances.

## **Significant Cases (continued)**

### **Case #3**

On May 22, 2019, DEU Detectives were conducting unmarked stationary surveillance, in reference to an investigation involving citizen's complaint over suspicious activity from a neighbor's residence.

While conducting surveillance, DEU Detectives observed a vehicle with two female occupants return to the residence.

After an investigation, Renee Roccia was placed under arrest for Possession and Distribution of Prescription Narcotics. As a result of the investigation, Roccia was charged with the following:

- ◆ Possession of a Schedule I Narcotic
- ◆ Possession with Intent, and Distribution of CDS

Roccia was later released from the Stafford Township Police Department pending future court appearances.

## **Surveillance**

Surveillance is a large part of the DEU's function. Tips and anonymous information received cannot be relied upon on face value. The information must be corroborated in order to be substantiated and unbiased. Most cases, in their infancy, start out as a tip or neighborhood complaint. Various surveillance techniques are then employed. If the information from the initial complaint matches the information gained during surveillance, a surveillance report is generated. This is the initial probable cause used to further the investigation. In 2019, the DEU participated in almost 1000 hours of surveillance. These surveillances ranged from suspected drug deals to neighborhood vandalism. A typical surveillance can range anywhere from a two hour activity to an entire shift.

## **Confidential Informants**

Concerned citizens frequently call the DEU giving valuable information on CDS related cases, thefts, and anonymous tips. Many times, tips from anonymous sources and concerned citizens contribute to the DEU's overall success. The DEU strives to follow up all information that pertains to CDS activity no matter how insignificant it may seem at the time. We view the trust and help of the public as an invaluable source of information.

## **Search Warrants**

During the year 2019, the DEU authored over sixteen search warrants for controlled dangerous substances. In addition, the DEU conducted numerous consent searches of motor vehicles, resulting in several narcotic related arrests. Furthermore, the DEU assisted the Ocean County Special Operations Group, Barnegat Township Police, Little Egg Harbor Police, Lacey Township Police, Atlantic City Drug Task Force, and the Atlantic City Prosecutors Office with the execution of an additional ten search warrants.

All search warrants and consent searches were professionally and thoroughly executed without incident.



# PBA



Each year the Stafford Township PBA holds numerous fundraisers designed to give back to the community. In 2019, the PBA raised and donated over \$100,000 to local charities, youth and high school sports teams, families who lost their homes due to tragedy, residents suffering from cancer and other devastating illnesses, and other good will. The PBA, in conjunction with the Stafford Township Recreation Department, holds an annual toy and coat drive. In 2019, the PBA donated gifts, clothing, toys, and holiday dinners through the toy drive that gave assistance to over 200 families in need within Stafford Township. In 2019, Stafford PBA donated over \$35,000 in scholarships that were awarded to Southern Regional High School Students. The following fundraisers are the primary means of raising funds for the PBA:

## **The Stafford Township PBA Letter Drive**

Each year the PBA sends out a mailer to all Stafford Township residents, where residents can send in a donation in any amount to help support the PBA.

## **The Stafford Township Golf Outing**

The Stafford Township Golf outing is held at Sea Oaks every summer. The PBA raises money through foursomes who sign up to golf, as well as prizes that are donated by businesses within Manahawkin and raffled off at the dinner.

## **The Stafford Township PBA Manahopkin Craft Beer and Music Festival**

The Manahopkin Craft Beer and Music Festival is held every August at the Manahawkin Lake Park. This event fully funds the Winter Coat and Toy Drive as well as contributes to Scholarship Awards for the following spring. The event features live music, over 50 craft beers from 25 local breweries, many food trucks, craft vendors, as well as activities for the children. Admission to the festival is free, opened to the public and relies on donations.

## **The Stafford PBA Striped Bass Fishing Tournament**

The Stafford PBA Striped Bass Fishing Tournament is another big fundraiser held every November. Last year we had 100 boats sign up with a cash prize of nearly \$10,000 going to the boat with the biggest striped bass. Each Boat pays an entry fee and the fish that is caught is cooked at the awards banquet that is opened to the public. The banquet also features a silent auction of many different prizes that are donated by businesses in the community.

Because of the above events and the generosity of our community partners, the PBA was able to raise a substantial amount of money that went directly back into the community in 2019.





# STAFFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT







The Stafford Township Police Department's 2019 Annual Report was produced by the hardworking men and women of the Stafford Township Police Department.

Please visit us at:

<http://www.staffordpolice.org>

The Stafford Township Police Department utilizes the following social media platforms to disseminate information to the public:

- ◆ Twitter
- ◆ Facebook
- ◆ Instagram
- ◆ Code Red



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